

# Stillwater Catholic Community

*Serving the Parishes of St. Francis Xavier and St. John the Evangelist  
Part of the Diocese of Tulsa and Eastern Oklahoma – Together, Our Faith Goes Further*

**We seek to spread the word of God and serve our community and  
the universal Church through the Pillars of Parish Stewardship:  
HOSPITALITY, PRAYER, FORMATION, AND SERVICE.**

His Holiness, Pope Francis  
Bishop of Tulsa, David Konderla  
Fr. Ken Harder, JCL - St. Francis Pastor  
Fr. Emeritus Jim Greiner  
Fr. Kerry Wakulich - St. John Pastor  
Fr. Lawrence Nwachukwu – Assoc. Pastor  
Deacon Bart Brashears  
Deacon Glenn Collum  
Deacon Paul Govek  
Deacon Tom Haan



## Fourth Sunday of Advent December 24, 2017

Each year, this season of Advent comes around. Today we bless the fourth and last candle on our wreath. Let us ask God to bless our family on this final Sunday in Advent: God of surprises, today we hear about the surprise that Mary experienced. She is pregnant with your Son!

Help our family to be obedient to your surprises, however they may spring up in our lives. All of your gifts work for the benefit of your people. When we light this final candle on our wreath, let us bring your surprise gift of love to our neighbors and friends. We ask this through Christ, who is the ultimate surprise gift to the world. Amen.

### Christmas Eve – December 24

St. Francis Mass times – 4pm(Spanish), 7pm and 10pm  
St. John Mass times – 6:00pm and Midnight

### Christmas Day – December 25

St. Francis and St. John will have Mass at 10am

**The St. Francis and St. John Parish Office  
will be closed Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> – Jan 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**Have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**

Bulletin submissions should be directed to [erin@sfxstillwater.org](mailto:erin@sfxstillwater.org)  
by Wednesday at noon prior to the Sunday publication.

### St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church

601 S. West Street † P.O. Box 909 † Stillwater, OK 74076  
Phone: 405-372-6886 † Fax: 405-533-1728  
Email: [cindy@sfxstillwater.org](mailto:cindy@sfxstillwater.org)  
Website: [www.sfxstillwater.org](http://www.sfxstillwater.org)

#### Worship Schedule

**Saturday** 5:00pm  
**Sunday** 8:00am, 10:00am & 1:00pm (Spanish)  
**Daily Mass:** Tues., Wed. and Thurs. – 8:00am  
Friday – 12:10pm  
First Saturday of the Month Mass at 9:00am  
**Holy Days:** 7:00am, 5:30pm & 7:30pm (Spanish)  
**Adoration:** Tues. & Wed. – 8:30am &  
1st Friday after 12:10pm Mass  
**Reconciliation:** Wed. 5:30 – 7:00pm & Sat. 3:00 – 4:30pm

Vic Schutte – Director of Formation and Operations  
Cindy Beckman – Business Manager

Leah Afill – Finance and Facilities Manager † [leah@sfxstillwater.org](mailto:leah@sfxstillwater.org)

Erin Johnson – Office Assistant, Bulletin

Lori Wieder – Office Assistant, Website

Kevin Larios – Music Ministry (405) 624-2208 † [klarios357@earthlink.net](mailto:klarios357@earthlink.net)

### St. John the Evangelist Catholic Student Center

201 N. Knoblock † Stillwater, OK 74075  
Phone: 405-372-6408 † Fax: 405-372-6409 † 032176  
Email: [catholicpokes@gmail.com](mailto:catholicpokes@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.catholicpokes.com](http://www.catholicpokes.com)

#### Worship Schedule

**Sunday** 9:30am, 11:30am  
5:00pm (Student)  
**Daily Mass:** Mon. 12:15pm  
Wed. 12:15pm & 9pm (Student)  
Tues., Thurs. & Friday – 5:15pm  
**Holy Days:** 12:15pm & 6:30pm  
**Adoration:** Tues. – Friday 8:00 – 9:00am  
Wednesday 1:00 – 5:00pm  
1<sup>st</sup> Friday after the Thursday 5:15pm Mass  
**Reconciliation:** Tues. – Friday 8:00 – 9:00am  
Sunday 9 – 9:30am, 11 - 11:30am & 3:45 – 4:45pm

Kathleen Walker – Business Manager

Cathy Perry – Campus Ministry Director

Matt Bond – Campus Ministry Development Director

Marilyn Middlebrook – Music Ministry

Brandi Bishop – Parish Nurse † (405) 269-2252 † [brandi@sfxstillwater.org](mailto:brandi@sfxstillwater.org)  
Sarah Dorman – Religious Education (PreK-5<sup>th</sup>) † (405) 372-7987 † [sarah@sfxstillwater.org](mailto:sarah@sfxstillwater.org)  
Ashleigh Martin – Youth Ministry (6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>) † (405) 269-3786 † [ashleigh@sfxstillwater.org](mailto:ashleigh@sfxstillwater.org)

And the angel said to her in reply, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.” (Lk 1:35)

**Fr. Ken's Reflection:** The wait is almost over. For three weeks, we have heard the call, "Be Alert," and "Prepare the way of the Lord." The focus of the Church has been to look within ourselves and be aware of all that keeps the Lord from fully entering our lives. Life with Christ is a mixed reality with us; we believe but we still find ourselves attached to things of this world so that we are distracted from our Christian calling. Of course we are not going to simply change all that in a four week span, but our renewed effort to do so will help us grow throughout the rest of our lives in the love that is God Himself. Now, our attention is focused on the historical coming of Christ into the world. The plan of salvation, hidden from human eyes, is now brought forth. An angel greets a young woman with a startling salutation, 'hail, full of grace.' When has an angel ever greeted a human person like that? Such a greeting is reserved for kings, yet an angel of higher dignity than human dignity recognizes in Mary a dignity greater than his own. She is full of grace, there is no defect or effect of sin within her. Mary is greatly troubled by this greeting. This message from God causes her a sense of fear, as it does anyone. When God calls us, it is not to affirm what we are doing; rather it is a call to something new. Do not be afraid is the assurance given her. That same phrase appears elsewhere in the gospel when the power of God is at work, Jesus gives the same greeting to the disciples on the day of Resurrection. Do not be afraid. You may not understand what God asks of you but loving trust is what you must show. Mary's part in salvation is revealed to her. She asks how she is to accomplish what is asked; she asks not out of skepticism or fear as Zechariah did but out of a genuine desire to serve. It is the power of the Holy Spirit, the mutual love of Father and Son that is itself personal, that will bring about God's work in her. Throughout Scripture, the power of God is the Holy Spirit at work; in other words, the power of God is Love itself. Mary lovingly places her life at the service of God, knowing that it will bring great challenge. The great challenges that Mary will endure, most especially witnessing the cruel death of her Son, are acceptable to her because of her loving trust of God. This is how the Son of God was made manifest in the world two thousand years ago and it is the same way He is made manifest now. Mary was the first to do what all Christians are called to do; bring Christ into the world around you. Mary brought Christ into the world in a special way but we do as well. The call of God will have the same effect on each of us. We can be troubled by what God asks of us; don't be afraid. We may not understand; it will become clear over time what we must do. Behold the servant of the Lord, be it done to me according to your word, is the response we give with the whole of our heart, mind and soul. Then Christmas becomes our every day, for Christ comes to life in us for others to behold.

**Readings for the Week of December 24, 2017**

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38  
Monday: *Vigil:* Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25  
*Midnight:* Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14  
*Dawn:* Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20  
*Day:* Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14  
Tuesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 [6]/Mt 10:17-22  
Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8  
Thursday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18  
Friday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35  
Saturday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40  
Next Sunday: Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3 or Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9, [7a, 8a] or Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

**Parish Contributions**

*Fiscal Year: 7/1/2017-6/30/2018*

	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>To Date</u>
<b>St. Francis - Dec. 17</b>	<b>\$5,381.00</b>	<b>\$178,107.00</b>
<b>St. John - Dec. 17</b>	<b>\$3,103.60</b>	<b>\$154,154.10</b>

**Stillwater Catholic Radio (11/17-12/31/17)**  
Annual Goal: **\$4,260** Received to date: **\$5,031.90**

*Thank you for your continued generosity!*

**PRAYER**

*If you would like to add or remove someone, please contact the Parish Office at (405) 372-6886. Due to space limitations, names are removed from the list after 1 month.*

**Please keep the following people in your prayers:**

Elia Adams, Maria y Ricardo Aguilar, Jayden Andrew, Nena Batista, John Belusko, Kathryn Campbell, Salomón Cárdenas, Daniel Centeno, Pat Clemente, Scott Day Greg Deville, Fred Dick, Ed Eick, Paulina Figueroa, Stan Fimple, Adam and Liz Gleason, Carol Gleason, Mary Katherine Gracia, Jack & Katie Gordy, Essy Gorritis, Oscar González, James Grice, Todd Hachett, Monica Held, Cipriana Hernández, James and Katie Higbee, Mary Horton, Bob Kargel, Michael Knight, Mariela Latchman, Phyllis Lambert, Christopher Leffall, Anisa, Bernadette and Michael Magallanes, Luis Mendoza, Gerry & Sally Messbarger, Belinda Mooney, Heath Myers, Deacon Bill & Oleta Moler, Mary Nicholson, Mario Nieves, John & Jacqueline Palumberi, Bethany Pate, John Penn, Dick Powell, Nancy Pruitt, Claudia Ramos, Larry Redburn, Danielle Robinson, Garcia & Reynaldo Roque, James Scerine, Paul Schatz, Pat Sohrwide, Beth Stroud, Ray Tallent, Dick and Teddy Taylor, Pat Teller, Robby Tiedt, Hector Vivar, Don Wagner, Lindsay Wahlmeir, Lou Walker, Rosemary Weaver, Paul Westhaus, Tara Woods, John Yother, Anne and Joe Zinn, Marge Zoellner, and those providing and receiving care from Stephen Ministry.



**Please remember in your prayers all those currently serving our Country.  
Please pray for the repose of all Souls.**

**Prepare the Way of the Lord** – Tell anyone who cannot attend Mass the good news! The St. Francis 8:00am Mass will be broadcast on 94.3FM and 780AM at 9:30am each Sunday.

**† Mass Intentions †**

**St. Francis Xavier**

December 26 8:00am †**Bernie Kopel** – her Family  
December 27 8:00am †**Richard Campbell** - Family  
December 28 8:00am **Dcn. Randy Hearn** – Marilyn Seiler  
December 29 8:00am **Paul & Jean McMullen** – Marilyn Seiler  
December 30 5:00pm †**Joe Nelson** – Jenny & Family  
December 31 8:00am **Pro Populo**  
10:00am **For Deceased Family members and friends**

**St. John the Evangelist**

December 25 10am **Merry Christmas**  
December 26 5:15pm  
December 27 5:15pm **Feast of St. John the Evangelist**  
December 28 5:15pm **Daniel Gormley** – OSU Knights  
December 29 5:15pm **Michael Healy** – OSU Knights  
December 30 **No Saturday Mass**  
December 31 9:30am **Pro Populo**  
11:30am

## HOSPITALITY

**Join us TODAY!** Coffee and Donuts at St. John after 9:30am Mass. No coffee and donuts at St. Francis.

**Feast of St. John the Evangelist – December 27** – Join us on Wednesday, Dec. 27 at St. John for Mass at 5:15pm followed by a reception. All are welcome.

**Reception honoring Fr. Ken** on January 7 from 3pm to 6pm in the Parish Hall at St. Francis. All are welcome. If you have a picture of Fr. Ken over the past 15 years, please drop them at the parish office or email to [jodia1222@gmail.com](mailto:jodia1222@gmail.com). On the photo, please put your name and a brief description on the reverse side. If you have any questions, please call Jodi Deer at 405-747-5765. Hosted by Jodi and Terry Deer



## FORMATION

### Youth Formation - Religious Education & Youth Ministry

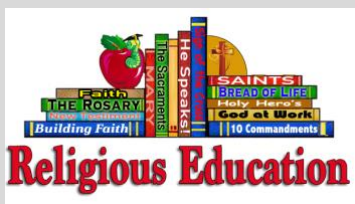
Sarah Dorman, RE Coordinator – [creprek-5@brightok.net](mailto:creprek-5@brightok.net) or 405.372.7987  
Ashleigh Martin, Youth Minister – [catholicyouth@brightok.net](mailto:catholicyouth@brightok.net) or 405.269.3786

#### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Pre-K – 5<sup>th</sup> Grades  
St. Francis Xavier Center  
(602 S. West St.)

There are NO RE classes  
on December 24 and 31.

Classes resume on Sunday,  
January 7, 2018!



#### YOUTH MINISTRY

6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grades  
CYO House (717 S. Hester St.)

No Classes on Dec. 24 and 31.



#### A Night in Italy with our Youth

Spaghetti dinner fundraiser  
January 20, 2018 6:30-8:30 pm  
St. John Parish Hall  
Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children  
Come enjoy a fun-filled night with dinner,  
entertainment and meet Fr. Brian O'Brien!!  
Tickets will be available for  
purchase in January.

### Baptism Preparation Class

If you are a parent or god-parent, Baptism classes are conducted by a Deacon at the St. Francis Xavier Center (602 S. West St.) on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm. To register, please call the parish office at (405) 372-6886.

### FORMED - The Catholic Faith on Demand

Extensive online formation opportunities for you and your family. Logon to FORMED.org with our parish membership code: e4623f. **Rediscover your Catholic Faith through the wonderful collection of Faith Formation series, Movies, Documentaries, Bible Studies, books and much more.**

### NEW Bible Study – A Biblical Walk Through the Mass

Do you understand the meaning behind the parts of the Mass? In his video-based study *A Biblical Walk Through the Mass*, Dr. Edward Sri explores the roots of the words and gestures we experience at Mass and explains their profound significance. In this study, you will come to know and understand the Mass as never before, leading you to a richer, more fruitful worship experience. Join us for *A Biblical Walk Through the Mass* at **St. Francis Xavier** beginning **January 9** from **1pm – 2:30pm** or **6:30pm- 8pm** and continuing every **Tuesday** for **5 weeks**. For more information or to register for the study, call **Terri Schutte** at **260-579-6464** or via email: [terri.schutte4@gmail.com](mailto:terri.schutte4@gmail.com). Please register by January 5<sup>th</sup> so study materials can be ordered.

### Adult Faith Formation

#### RCIA

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults.  
Holiday Break - No Classes Dec. 13 – Jan. 3.  
The next class will be Jan. 10 covering The Sacraments: Baptism and Confirmation.  
For more information, please contact Deacon Paul Govek at (405)377-7322.

#### First Friday Adoration

**Attention:** The St. John Chapel is unavailable for the 1st Friday January period of adoration. Therefore, all of the 1st Friday adoration will be at St. Francis Xavier. Since the Mass at St. Francis is at 8 AM on Thursdays; let's try to fill the daytime hours following the Mass, which are currently open, with adorers and have the Blessed Sacrament in Exposition at St. Francis from just after the 8am Mass on Thursday (01/04/18) through 8am Saturday (01/06/18). A great way to begin the New Year. Sign-up sheets are available in the vestibule.

#### Knights of Columbus Council 5266

Grand Knight – Chris Stoner  
[texagok87@sbcglobal.net](mailto:texagok87@sbcglobal.net) or 405-612-3135

Meetings are the second Monday of each month at **7:00 PM** in the basement of St. Francis Xavier. First Degrees are generally held on the forth Monday of each month as needed, but other arrangements can be made if necessary.

#### THE NINEVEH 90 CHALLENGE BEGINS JANUARY.

What is the Challenge? This is a great spiritual journey you can do before and during Lent. Visit [www.roamncatholicman.com](http://www.roamncatholicman.com) to learn more.

## SERVICE

**Parish Pastoral Council Meeting** - The next meeting is January 11 at 7pm in Rm 5 of the St. Francis Center.

**Stewardship Council Meeting** – The next meeting is January 4 at 6pm in Rm. 6 of the St. Francis Center.



**Altar Server Training** – Deacon Paul Govek will conduct training for those interested in becoming an Altar Server on January 3 at 6pm in St. Francis Xavier Church. If you have any questions, please contact Dcn. Paul at 405-377-7322.

**NEW THIS YEAR!!!! 2018 Contribution Envelopes or Automatic Donation for St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church.** Envelopes will be mailed directly to your home this year on a monthly basis. If you had envelopes or automatic draft set up in 2017, you should have received your first set of envelopes already. If you would like to use the envelope system or set up an automatic donation, please contact the parish office at 405-372-6886.

**Mother Teresa Ministry** provides food and gas to those in need throughout Stillwater and the surrounding area. If you know of someone that might need assistance, please have them call (405) 372-7673.

**Interested in learning more about Natural Family Planning?** Contact Daryl and Kathy Krehbiel at (405) 612-2005 or email at [StillwaterNFP@aol.com](mailto:StillwaterNFP@aol.com).

**Stephen Ministry** - ALL ALONE? Don't be. God doesn't want us to be alone. He wants us to turn to others when things are bothering us. Stephen Ministers will walk with you through your troubles and be there for you when you need them. If you or anyone you know if feeling alone, please contact Angela Pradia at (405)762-9405 or Mary Ellen Holley at (405)762-9357 or [angie\\_mklady@yahoo.com](mailto:angie_mklady@yahoo.com).

**Spanish classes for Adults** – Please call Luz Flores (405-880-0553) or Dr. Cida Chase (405-377-0671) for more information or to register for a class.

**Beginning Class** - Tuesdays from 6:15-7:15pm in Rm 5 at St. Francis/St. John School.

**Introductory Class** – Tuesdays from 6:15-7:15pm in Rm 6 at St. Francis/St. John School.

**Intermediate Class** – Mondays from 6:15-7:15pm in Rm 6 at St. Francis/St. John School.

### **St. Francis Xavier Preschool Advisory Board**

A Saint Francis Xavier Preschool Advisory Board has been recently created and several meetings have taken place in our efforts to commence school operations for the fall of 2018. Our incoming pastor Father Brian O'Brien is a long time supporter of Catholic schools and has a great interest in seeing us reopen in August. Father O'Brien will be the Chairman of the Board, while Joy Cawood will serve as President, Liz Tobert will be Social Media Coordinator, and Amy Bryant will be Secretary-Treasurer. Other members of the board are Brandon Cook, Sarah Dorman, Celeste Fox and Amanda Hoppe. Vic Schutte will serve as Ex Officio officer.

A survey will be coming out after the New Year seeking valued information for support and interest in various aspects of the school's operations including age ranges and timing of classes. Please take a moment to support this survey even if you do not have children or grandchildren that would be in the school. As a member of the parish, your support and opinions are valued.

## Health and Wellness Ministry

Brandi Bishop, RN 405-269-2252

From festive holiday parties to dinners with friends and family, let's face it; this time of year tends to center around food. The trick is to enjoy what you are eating, and to eat mindfully while avoiding overindulging and gaining weight in the process.



### 1. **Eat healthy MOST of the time.**

Make healthy low-calorie choices when you can and do not waste calories nibbling at home while watching TV. Celebrate only at holiday events. Plan your day and even plan for your occasional splurge.

### 2. **Mind your PORTIONS.**

What we love about portion control is that you can still indulge in your favorite foods instead of banning them completely.

### 3. **Eat MORE fruits and veggies.**

High in fiber, rich in nutrients, and low in calories, enjoying colorful fruits and vegetables is a win-win. Try filling half of your plate with fruits or vegetables at each meal.

### 4. **Limit LIQUID calories.**

When we drink our calories instead of eat them, we do not tend to register fullness and we often end up consuming extra unnecessary calories. Liquid calories such as soda are pure empty calories. Many alcoholic drinks also tend to be high in calories and drinking tends to decrease our resistance to temptations.

### 5. **Eat what you LOVE.**

Do not waste calories overeating on cookies and junk food that you do not like just because they are sitting there. Save your extra calories for special foods you enjoy during this time of year.

## Everyday Stewardship

Advent comes along every year and will continue to do so until Jesus returns. As this season draws to a close, we can each ask ourselves, "Am I now any better a disciple of Jesus Christ and more of a steward of all my gifts than before the Advent season started?" I have been on this earth for forty-plus years. I have had forty-plus Advents to draw closer to God and to work on taking more seriously my baptismal call. Some have gone better than others, but I would like to think my spiritual life progressed at least a small amount during each of them.

Conversion is a process. Stewardship is about a way of living and it is about more than simply being generous when a situation calls for it. Stewardship and conversion go hand-in-hand and we are always moving closer to holiness in Jesus Christ. Living in this way takes practice and commitment. If this Advent didn't go as you had hoped, remember it is not really an end. It is just another step along your journey.

This Christmas, while you are giving and receiving gifts and hopefully spending time with those you love, may you take the time to cherish the true gift that came to us over two thousand years ago and continues to call to us to this day: Jesus. Let us be grateful beyond measure for this gift above all gifts, let us continue on our journey, and let our lives give testimony to the One who leads us.

*Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS - © Liturgical Publications Inc*

## Live the Liturgy – Inspiration for the Week

Mary said: "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." A simple trust in God's word allowed the Mother of God to do incredible things. As a humble servant and listener, she embraced her mission and invested herself wholeheartedly in doing what God had asked. Do we know and trust that we are being led? Often, we can feel very much alone and without a source of inspiration, guidance, and love to enlighten our path. God is with us. This is the essential message of Advent and the truth revealed to us at Christmas. We are never alone. There is no need to fear. We too, with God's help, can do incredible things.